GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3106
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2008
COMPLAINTS AGAINST CAR MANUFACTURING COMPANIES
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the complaints that car manufacturing companies including those in the public sector have stopped making vehicles for the physically challenged;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the physically challenged people without having suitable vehicles;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government has issued any suitable directions to car manufacturers; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the problems of the handicapped people?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA)

(a)&(b): The association of automobile manufacturers,SIAM has informed that the Indian manufacturers who were earlier providing vehicles with automatic transmission for physically challenged persons had to discontinue the same since the demand for such vehicles is rare and making them available "off the shelf" is not economically viable.However,SIAM has also informed that the Indian automobile industry is committed to manufacture such vehicles on specific order to suit the disability of person. It may be mentioned that subsequent to the disinvestment of Maruti Udyog Ltd.(MUL), there are no car manufacturing companies in the Public Sector.

(c)to(e): The Government has been advising the car manufacturers to consider manufacturing at least one or two models of their cars suitable to be driven by the physically challenged persons. The Government of India is also providing excise duty concession on vehicles meant for physically challenged people.